

Runcorn Youth Leaders Guide

7 March 2011

1. Purpose of the Youth Group

Purpose Statement: Our youth group exists to *Know Christ and to make him known*

- The Greatest Commandment (Matt 22)

'**Love** the Lord your **God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'...and...'**Love** your **neighbor** as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

- The Great Commission (Matt 28)

¹⁹Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in¹ the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and **teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Purposes of the Church:

1. **Worship:** *Love the Lord your God with all your heart*
Worship involves both celebrating God and honouring him with our lifestyle
2. **Discipleship:** *Teaching them to obey*
To build up or strengthen believers in their quest to be like Christ
3. **Serve:** *Love your neighbour as yourself*
Meeting each others needs with love and using our gifts. God given gifts don't come with age limitations.
4. **Evangelise:** *Go and make disciple*
Evangelism is not only our responsibility, but our privilege. We are not to become a 'holy huddle'.
5. **Fellowship:** *Consequently you are no longer foreigners or aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household (Eph 2:19).*

2. Leadership Requirements

1. Cultivating an active **personal relationship with God** each week (*John 15:5*)
The youth don't need your clever ideas and great programming skills. They need a living model – a man or woman of God who is passionate their faith.
2. **Concern for the Youth** and their personal welfare (*John 10:11-12*)
Following Jesus example is means to shepherd his flock and to sacrifice yourself for them.
3. **Connected to the church** by either regularly attending either Runcorn Church services or homegroup. (*1 Cor 12:27*)
This demonstrates the desire to remain connected to the local expression of the church and to work with it, not against it. Lone wolves are dangerous.
4. Displays **leadership character** - qualities conducive to Godly leadership

Strives for Integrity, Servant-hearted, Humble, Listens to others, Able to communicate and influence others etc.

5. Demonstrates **obedience to Jesus**, not only at youth, but in life practices.

People won't follow how you urge them to live if you are not attempting to live that way yourself.

3. Leadership Commitments

What am I signing up for this term? Great question. Here are some general expectations:

1. **Attendance:** at least 8 out of 10 youth nights.

It's extremely difficult to build relationships with the youth if you aren't at Friday night events regularly. It's also hard to run a consistent program. The expectation is to miss no more than 2 nights per term. Friday nights usually run from 7:30-9:30pm with a meeting, prayer and set-up at 6:30pm.

2. **Development:** 1 half-day or 1 night session per term

As much as God has gifted us he wants us to develop our talents, abilities, knowledge and heart for helping with the youth group. This may mean attending a training session or seminar (paid for by the youth department). There will also be some in house training provided initially for those just starting out.

3. **Testimony:** At least once.

Tell the story of how you became a Christian and what Jesus means to you to the youth group. Not everyone is gifted in communicating. However, scripture tells us that we should be prepared to give a reason for hope that we have in Christ (1 Pt 3:15). In the New Testament, many are introduced to Jesus by somebody who encounters Jesus and then says to their friends, "come and see" (Jn 1:46; 4:29).

4. **Area of Responsibility:** one focus area of serving the youth.

We are all different. Not everyone is gifted in all aspects of leadership. Some may be talented musicians, others of us enjoy to care for the needs of those who are hurting, others of us are good at organising things. There will be opportunity try out helping in many different areas of the youth group. As you discover where your heart and giftings lie, please ask to take on some personal responsibility in that area. At the same time, many of us are gifted in many different areas – but we have to realise that we can't do everything – quantity usually comes at the cost of quality.

5. **Planning:** 1 night per term

We meet prior to each term to plan the program of events. Your insights and ideas are valuable and welcome. (If you take responsibility for organising one of the youth nights, or an aspect of ministry within the youth, such as the worship team, it will involve more time to consult with other key youth leaders etc.).